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Again Like a Crab, Backward.

President Roosevelt has semi-officially but nome the less authoritatively announced the formal abandonment of so much of his labor policies as sought to legalize the "peaceable" boycott and to cripple the courts by impairing the writ of injunction. His retreat is accompanied by a characteristic semi-official statement, thus reported by our contemporary the New York Times:

At the interview in the White House the Presi dent pointed out that the demand for labor legis lation had greatly diminished since it became ap parent that whatever measure might finally b put through Congress would be free from partisan provisions. Even the Civic Federation bill, said Mr. Townsenp, which was introduced by Representative HEPBURN, met with severe oriticism at the hands of President Gompens, while every hill bearing on injunctions has been at once con-

"It is the opinion of the President that the ab sence of any general expression on the bills from the rank and file of labor means simply that there is no real demand for immediate legislation. He and Mr. Townsend came easily to an agreement on the point that the demand was in the first place started by GOMPERS and a few leaders and that subsequently these leaders killed whatever chance there might have been for the enactment of labor legislation."

The disingenuousness of this position is remarkable, even for the most adroit political acrobat in the history of American politics. For nearly four years Mr. ROOSEVELT has by regular message, by special message, by official statements, by semi-official statements, by inspired declarations, by semi-inspired declarations, by letters to Congressmen and interviews with labor leaders vehemently asseverated that the demands of organized labor were not only legitimate but so insistent that they could not safely be ignored. As recently as April 27, 1908, Mr. ROOSEVELT reminded Congress:

"They are blind who fall to realize the extreme blitterness caused amony large bodies of worthy citizens by the use that has been repeatedly made

So certain was he then that the great majority of the American people deenanded this radical legislation that he gave this popular mandate as the chief reason for the passage of the laws, and added:

" In a democracy like ours it is idle to expect peressently to thwart the determination of the great ody of our citizens.

Now, only a fortnight later, we are assured:

"The absence of any general expression on the bills from the rank and file of labor means simply that there is no real demand for immediate legis lation."

In view of the fact that the labor leaders after the Danbury Hat decision was announced met in extraordinary session in the city of Washington and insistently demanded the immediate enactment of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S radical labor policies, the fact that mass meetings were subsequently held in nearly every city of the country to express this demand, and the fact that Congress has for months past been deluged by petitions, letters and telegrams from trade unions, the President's bold assumption "that there is no real demand for immediate legislation" makes up in bravado what it lacks in sincerity.

The reason for this extraordinary change of front is not far to seek. In the interval between April 27, when the President was so impressed with "the extreme bitterness" of "large bodies of | tean people." worthy citizens," and May 11, when we were advised that "there is no real demand for immediate legislation," the manufacturers of this country became aroused as they have rarely been aroused before. It is stated that 10,000 letters only candidate before the convention at and telegrams of protest have flooded Denver and fears that the nomination is the White House within the space of a few days. The National Association of BRYAN keeps the types of the Commoner Manufacturers, through their vigorous | hot with appeals to the American people, and militant president, J. W. VAN CLEAVE, sounded a trumpet blast not merely of hundred times in one issue, and is reprotest but of defiance. He announced duced to sending out tabulated claims that the employers of America, who had I of delegates from Lincoln, the tide has heretofore sat silently and watched with | turned and the signs are that the gatheramazement and indignation the attempt | ing at Denver will be an open convento betray them as well as the independent | tion in which any one of Mr. BRYAN'S manual toiler to the tyranny of the labor trust, were now determined to wage the Democratic nomination, relentless war upon the demagogues who plotted their destruction. Mr. VAN | American and English School Teach-CLEAVE, who had bravely fought the Buck's Stove case to a successful conc'usion and established the unlawfulness of the "unfair list," publicly reminded | school teachers, organized by Mr. ALFRED | pended for purposes which in any way President ROOSEVELT of the conditions Mosely, visited this country and benefit or even affect our foreign trade of 1896, when the Democratic party made a similar attempt to make a political issue of "government by injunction," and the political revolt of unprecedented

dimensions that promptly followed. For this revolt of Republican manutacturers the President was not prepared. He had supposed that between Siamese-twinlike ligature which would bind them in loyalty no matter how gravely they might be menaced by radical labor policies. The President suddenly saw a new light and with his customary agility promptly began a retreat, leaving his dismayed labor associates to

In incontinently running away from his labor allies he attempts to alleviate the bitterness of betraval by the suggestion that the radical labor policies are simply abandoned "for this session."

We have none too high an opinion of Mr. Gompers's political astuteness, but he is much too old a bird to be caught with this chaff. His repeated statements have shown that he fully understood that the only time his radical demands could have had any chance of adoption was at the present session of Congress, on the eve of a Presidential election and with a powerful and unscrupulous party leader snapping the party whip. He knows that after the next Presidential election the President will have no further use for him and his radical demands. In the bitterness of this palpable treachery Mr. Gompers doubtless exclaims:

Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love. But-why did you kick me down states?"

An Open Convention at Denver. The claim of more than two-thirds of he delegates to the Democratic national convention which is sent out from Lincoln in the interests of Mr. BRYAN was no doubt inspired by him on the eve of his journey to Washington to be present at the Governors' conference, where Mr BRYAN will have to stand comparison with JOHN A JOHNSON of Minnesota as an available candidate for the Democratic nomination for President.

The appearance of Governor Johnson at the national capital in an official capacity while Congress is in session and at a time when the result of the primaries in Minnesota is fresh in the minds of public men cannot be relished by Mr. BRYAN. He no longer holds unchallenged the centre of the stage as a Democratic candidate and it must add to his annoyance and deepen his fears that Governor JOHNSON is to make a tour of the South when the Governors' conference is over. As Mr. BRYAN is a private citizen and has not held any office for fourteen years there is no reason why he should have been invited to the conference called by the President, except a purely political reason originating in the desire of Mr. ROOSEVELT to aggrandize Mr. BRYAN as a Democratic leader. Unfortunately for this design, as well as for the ambition of Mr. BRYAN, his rival the Governor of Minnesota had to be invited too.

Very different is the position of Mr. BRYAN as a candidate now from his position in 1900. His partisans strive to reate the impression that as there was no opposition to him then there is none now that need be seriously considered. But the facts demolish this theory. In 1900 there was absolutely no obstacle in Mr. BRYAN's path to the nomination, East, West, North or South. The machinery of organization was either in the hands of his friends or controlled by politicians who recognized the futility of any resistance. Although it was not the practice of New York conventions to instruct their delegates, the convention of 1900 instructed for Mr. BRYAN and its delegates were bound by the unit rule. In the Pennsylvania convention on April 5, 1900, "every mention of Mr. BRYAN's name caused a howl of joy" and the delegation to Kansas City was instructed. The Maryland Democrats in their platform on June 5 declared:

We note and record the fact that with unparaleled unanimity the Democrats in county and State conventions have signified their desire that WILLIAM JENNINGS BEYAN shall again be selected to lead the Democratic party."

Mr. BRYAN's election was actually predicted in the Maryland resolutions. The New Jersey delegates were not instructed, but the platform adopted by the State convention on May 31 contained this tribute:

"We recognize WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN as the popular tribune of the people, able, fearless and honest and worthy to receive at their hands the highest political honor."

The Delaware delegates were also instructed for Mr. BRYAN. In Vermont the convention expressed faith in him as the party leader, and it was announced that the delegates would vote for him as a unit. Maine and Connecticut were infected with the same official enthusiasm for Mr. BRYAN, and in the other New England States his nomination was regarded as inevitable and unescapable, and there was no organized opposition to him. Mr. BRYAN even indicated the platform before the convention met, and declared that the Democratic ticket was sure to win because

"The people are with us this year and they are in sympathy with the principles which will be embodied in the Kansas City platform and which represent the feelings of the great mass of the Amer

Mr. BRYAN affects at this time to regard his nomination as assured and he talks in the same fulsome strain about the success of the ticket to be led by his name: but he knows that he will not be the slipping from his grasp. When Mr. prints his own name more than two competitors may carry off the prize of

ers.

large body of English national or board Canada for the purpose of studying our educational institutions, especially those technical education and manual training. A counterpart of that visit has been planned by the National Civic Federation, or rather by its educational department, directed by Dr. NICHOLAS Its work in that direction has not been them and the Republican party was a MURRAY BUTLER, president of Columbia University, who is arranging to send to England between September and January next about a thousand of our public school teachers. We understand that they are to be transported across the

extricate themselves as best they could, i they will be taken under the charge of reception committees. Among those who have accepted an invitation to serve on the principal of these committees are the Archbishop of CANTERBURY and other bishops; the United States Ambassador: the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and the Headmaster of Eton; Mr. A. G. BALFOUR and other members of Parliament; many other officials, and most of the members of the Mosely Educational Commission of 1903. It is evident, therefore, that the visiting American teachers will find no lack of competent guidance

in their investigations. Whether, however, our public school teachers have much to learn from their British counterparts is a matter of doubt. Many English experts, including a manifestly well informed writer in the London Times, are themselves sceptical on this point. For example, coeducation is as yet in its infancy in Great Britain; especially in secondary schools is there as yet no extensive application of the coeducational system. Then, again, our public school buildings and plants are as a rule superior to any that the British ratepayer is disposed to provide. It is likewise acknowledged that on the other side of the Atlantic manual training, viewed as an essential ingredient in both primary and secondary education, is not yet fully recognized, either in theory or in practice. Such training begins, indeed, in British infant schools with their kindergarten methods and occupations, but it is not systematically carried further in schools for older pupils

In technical instruction, on the other hand, more advance has been made there being many technical institutions well equipped in respect of buildings and plants. The Manchester Institute of Technology, for instance, may from this point of view be compared with the similar establishments in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Chicago, and even with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, best known as the "Boston Tech." The admitted weakness of the British technical institutions is not in accommodations and appliances for technical instruction, nor in the competence of the instructors, but in the defective general qualifications of those who come from the secondary schools. Another thing that is likely to surprise the visiting American teachers is this, that in English secondary schools little or no attention is paid to the teaching of the mother tongue and its literature.

The public schools of the United States differ from the national or board schools of England in respect of the arrangements made for an easy and natural transition from primary to secondary schools. In the United States public education is in theory, and to a considerable extent in practice, a continuous whole from the infant school to the university. Hitherto this has not been the case in England. Among the pupils in national or board schools comparatively few have thus far contemplated matriculation in a university. Yet, if the increasing popular demand that the higher education be made accessible to the children of the artisan classes is not to be rejected, it is imperative that facilitween elementary and secondary schools. oncerning this subject the visiting American teachers will be able to offer English instructors some valuable suggestions. On the whole, we are of opinion that the English hosts will gain more from the visit than their American guests. It is more blessed, however, to give than to receive.

A Good Lesson in Rhetoric. The present Governor of New York while in Washington should be felicitated by a certain ex-Governor of New York

upon the clarity and definitive character of his literary style: Take, as an example meriting praise

for the qualities named, this sentence: " I should not be able to accept, and would not any contingency accept, a nomination for the Vice-Presidency; and even were I elected I could

Thus does Governor HUGHES show President ROOSEVELT how easy it is to make conclusive an announcement of this sort which represents an honest and unalterable determination.

The Comment of a Consul.

In the form of a suggestion rather than a complaint, the American Consul at Gothenburg, Sweden, submits an interesting comment on the increasing number of applications made to our Consuls all over the world for special information regarding trade opportunities in their respective localities. Mr. ROBERTson is of the opinion that most of these inquiries should be submitted to the Department of Commerce and Labor, in Washington. Upon this point we agree with Mr. ROBERTSON. A national Department of Commerce

should be a repository of all possible information regarding trade and trade conditions the world over. It should be the distributing centre for all such information. In such a department, properly organized, there should be assembled, arranged, classified, as systematically as are the books and pamknown or that can be known of the or draw any odious parallels trade and commerce of other lands. In brief, the Department of Commerce should stand to the merchants and the manufacturers of the country as the Department of Agriculture stands to the farmers. It is true that appropriations for the Department of Commerce and It will be remembered that in 1906-07 a | Labor exceed those for the Department of Agriculture, but the percentage ex-

is trivial. It may be assumed from the terms of concerned with primary, secondary and | the bill by which it was created that one purpose in the establishment of the Department of Commerce and Labor was the installation of an effective agency for the extension of our oversea trado. entirely insignificant, but it has been exceedingly limited. The increasing correspondence to which Mr. ROBERTSON refers, the increasing number of applications made by merchants directly to Consuls, shows one of two situations, Atlantic and back for a nominal charge, namely, either the Department of Comand that on their arrival in Great Britain | merce and Labor is weak and inefficient

in what should be the most important branch of its activities, or the country is lamentably ill informed of its efficiency. A man in need of information naturally applies where he expects to get the most and the best. In this matter, that source should be the Department of Commerce and Labor, an institution best known to the country as a bureau of statisties and an instrument used by the President in the investigation of the business of

There should be in this Department a Bureau of Foreign Trade effectively administered and maintained by an adequate appropriation. The present Bureau of Martis-pares may be doing all that can be done with the means and the facilities at its command, but it is a very inadequate substitute for the agency which should be maintained by a country exporting \$2,000,000,000 worth of merchandise a year and hoping to double that amount. The name of this bureau should be changed, and it should be made a place from which an answer could be made to any reasonable question regarding the trade of any country in the world. It should be made a clearing house for all consular reports and foreign trade information.

Marriages in Jail.

On Friday, the first day of May, 1908, JOHN GIBBONS and URSULA BENNETT were united in marriage at the Suffolk County Jail in Riverhead by GEORGE W. HILDRETH, Esq., a Justice of the Peace. We glean the following particulars of this interesting event from the Riverhead Weekly News, the local newspaper:

" Mr. GIBBONS is in fall working out a \$1,000 fine at the rate of \$4 a day. He was convicted last December of illegally selling liquor in dry East Hampton. Miss BENNETT decided she did not want to wait until her lover should get out of jail, so she requested permission to have the marriage performed behind the hars.

"Warden FUREY, with his accustomed large heartedness, assisted to the best of his ability He permitted the couple to use his private office on the second floor of the jail, which is nicely furnished and decorated, and it was there that the brief ceremony was performed. Warden FURBY was best man and Miss FRANCES EDWARDS was maid of honor.

"The bride was becomingly attired in a neat brown suit. Her maid of bonor was gowned in

"The bridegroom made the Justice a handsome present after the ceremony. It is said that this is the first time that a marriage ever took place in the jail. Following the ceremony Mrs. GIBBONS remained a while in fall with her husband and then left for her home in East Hampton."

The question which such an event suggests is whether criminals ought to be permitted to marry while undergoing punishment for their crimes

In other words, is this sort of thing

right? We have always had an idea-just a feeble glimmering notion-that when the law imposed a punishment for crime it was intended to be a punishment: something disagreeable to the convict, physically and mentally unpleasant, and in ties shall be provided for transition be- the prison life of a person adjudged guilty of a criminal offence. Marriage, however, is ordinarily assumed to be one of the most pleasurable incidents in a man's career; and that a convicted criminal should be permitted to enjoy this privilege-except in those cases where he marries in order to do what he can toward repairing a wrong which he has done the woman-seems to us an incongruity in the administration of our penal institutions which cannot be corrected too soon.

There ought to be a general rule, applicable to the cases of all convicts alike. prohibiting the prison authorities from permitting their marriage while undergoing incarceration. We should not have supposed that such a prohibition was necessary, but this jail marriage at Riverhead shows that it is. It may be said in defence of the warden's conduct that the offence of the bridegroom, being only a violation of the liquor law, did not involve any serious wrongdoing or moral turpitude; but if he can lawfully allow a convict of one class to marry in jail, we do not see why he may not allow a convict of any class to marry there.

The plain fact is that a jail is no place for a marriage anyway-except to right

The Republican State convention in California meets to-morrow at Sacramento. Thanks to the battleships (and perhaps to George A. Knight) Republican sentiment in California is now declared to be overwhelmingly for the renomination of THEODORE ROOSEVELT, with TAFT as second choice and HUGHES as third. Day before yesterday the chairman of the Republican State committee was reported as predicting that to-morrow's convention would instruct for ROOSEVELT. Watch KNIGHT!

The situation is a difficult one. I think that it will not be safe to withdraw the troops until after the tobacco plants have been transplanted from the beds to the fields. General Worthington Kauteman of the Ohio National Guard.

If this item strikes the eve of General PINO GUERRA, the leader of the last revolt in Cuba and the future commander in chief of its regular army, who is now in this country to study our military resources, let us phlets in a public library, all that is hope he will make no invidious comparisons

> The "sheath" gowns offended Parisians to the rioting point at a racetrack on Sunday. Students of comparative morality will note that a crowd in this country would have been more amused than otherwise stirred by those gowns, but offended to the point of real indignation by the spectacle of horse racing on Sunday.

New Railway Signals in Germany

From the Railway Magazine. Several recent railway accidents in Germany ave been traced to the fallure of engine drivers to see signals and this circumstance has caused the Prussian railway administration to adopt a new signal apparatus.

The feature of the new system lies in the warn ing given the engine driver that he is approaching a signal about 110 yards before the signal itself ! actually reached. This is accomplished by the use of an electric cab signal system which rouses the driver's attention by ringing a bell and exposing a white slide directly before his eyes in the ca With his attention thus stimulated the driver will have no excuse for running by a signal in a fog.

> The Unmannerly Owl. inside of a Pine Knot he dwelt And hooted whatever he felt. When asked to be quiet He said "I won't try it. I'm Bust-what-I-please Roosevelt.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION.

WASHINGTON, May 12 .- Speaker Cannon says that "the poor lawmaker is up against it good and hard." The statement is expressive and even forceful, although it suggests the poolroom rather than the halls of national legislation. "Judging from the number of protests and demands," the Speaker says, "that have been received by Congress this session, nearly every man, woman and child who has thought of it has at one time or another exercised his or her corporations suspected of offence against constitutional right to petition."

While the facts could be determined only by weeks of tedious investigation, there is little doubt that the custom of memorializing and petitioning the Congress and the custom of individual request to individual Congressmen are far more general than they used to be. The mail service is burdened with these messages. There are nearly 500 Congressmen, and few or none escape the flood. The majority count their letters of this class by scores or by hundreds. The Congressional Record reports their presentation. They call for new laws, for amendments, for repeal, and they protest against new laws, amendments and repeal. For instance the Record of May 8 reports:

Mr. Depew presented petitions of sundry citizen of Plattsburg, Kingston, Glens Falls, Yonkers, Albany, New York city, Troy, Buffalo, Flushing, Olean, Syracuse, Ithaca, Utlca, Oneonta, Batavia, Elmira, Cohoes, Brooklyn, Watertown, Tonawanda Newburgh, Corinth and Schenectady, all in the State of New York, praying for the adoption of certain amendments to the so-called "Sherman anti-trust law" relating to labor organizations, which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On that day and on other days other Senators and Representatives presented petitions from hundreds of other places. From all such petitions received and presented it might be inferred that the one thought and desire of the people of the country was the amendment of that particular law. There are petitions for and petitions against a rural parcels post bill petitions relating to liquor legislation, grain inspection, the conservation of national resources, currency, pensions, eight hour laws, injunctions, employers' liability, the arbitration treaty with Great Britain and scores of other matters, including the memorial of "M. B. Steezynski and others favoring the Bates resolution of sympathy for the Poles" and the petition of the "Gulf Refining Company for an embargo on Venezuelan asphalt.

Here and there in this torrent of petitions appeals and memorials there is a note of genuine patriotism, of sincere desire for legislation that will lift the land to higher social, moral or intellectual levels. Most of it rests on individual greed or on effort to secure special benefit for some special group or class. It is all intensely human. Something is wanted for self, for group or for olass, and effort is made to secure it. Labor is just now particularly active and energetic. Headquarters has sent word to its thousands of branches to get busy. Thousands who would not know the Sherman law from a quotation from the Koran have been praying the Congress for its amendment.

One cannot say what good is done by it all. Presumably it is an expression of public opinion. It is an expression of the opinion of a part of the public, but Congress knows that an equal number of signers to an equal number of petitions directly opposed to those presented could be obtained by the use of the same methods as those employed by the petitioners. Here and there a timid Representative is frightened no wise consistent with comfort. We by the clamor of labor people, temperance had not supposed that pleasure was people, supporters of "my policies" or by designed to constitute any element in some other group of his constituents. He presents a bill and he may make a speech. His bill is buried in a pigeonhole and he distributes copies of the Record containing his speech. He writes personal letters to the petitioners and tells them of his struggles on their behalf and assures them that the passage of the measure in which they are interested depends entirely upon his reelection.

Probably some of these petitions are not is also probable that the greatest public benefit from most of them is in keeping down the annual deficit in the Post Office Department.

Year's Changes in Internal Commerce Figures.

Building permits granted in forty seven leading ties in March were larger than during either January or February, amounting to \$34,228,095. This, however, says the Bureau of Statistics, was \$20,000,000 less than was reported for March, 1907. More than 60 per cent. of the decrease is accounted for by the partial cessation of building operations in New York city, though Chicago, Pittsburg, Phiiadelphia, San Francisco and other large cities likewise report smaller figures than a year ago. Shipments of redwood lumber from upper Callfornia during March, 1908, totalled 13,817,307 fee against 37,827,967 feet in March, 1907, and 32,678,090 feet in March, 1906.

The coke production at Connellsville, Pa., including the lower district, during the four weeks ending March 28, of 618,941 net tons, was 62 per cent. lower than the corresponding 1907 figures, and even below the February figures of 713,323 net tons. The number of idle ovens reported March 28, namely, 21,836 exceeds by more than 2,000 the number reported at the end of February.

Production of anthracite and coke pig tron during the month-1,228,204 gross tons, was about 1,000,000 tons below the March, 1907, total.

Coal and coke traffic over seven leading Eastern coal carrying roads, including the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio, 9,581,447 tons, shows decrease in March, 1908, from March, 1907, of 12 per

Coastwise receipts of southern pine at New York during the month ended March 25, 1908, of 19,621,680 feet, were about 30 per cent. below like receipts for the corresponding 1907 period. Anthracite coal shipments from Eastern produc-ing territory for the month totalled 4,766,158 gross

tons, being below the totals reported for March each of the three preceding years. Packing house products shipments from Chicago during March, 1908, were 200,550,612 pounds, a 10 per cent. decline from February, and but a slight

increase over the March, 1907, total of 199,525,571 Receipts of live stock at seven interior primary markets during March were 3,879,678 head, compar-ing favorably with March, 1907, 3,088,978 head, and March, 1906, 3,296,683 head, though less than in

January and February, 1908. Grain receipts during March at fifteen primary markets, 65,910,171 bushels, while in excess of the l'ebruary receipts, were below the March, 1907, receipts of 72,289,547 bushels. Live stock receipts at Boston, New York, Phila

delphia and Baltimore in March of this year were 741,915 head, compared with 526,400 head in March, 1907. Grain and flour receipts at the same cities during the same month, 13,146,371 bushels, show a heavy

decline as compared with March, 1907, 22,553,762 bushels, and March, 1906, 17,834,889 bushels. A Suggestion to Californians. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str: I would no

ask this favor of you did I not know that among your readers are many-I may say practically a

-California New Yorkers. The Bohemian Club of San Francisco lost every volume of its large librar; in the fire following the earthquake. The loss most deplored is the books relating to early California There surely must be many of your readers former Californians, who have duplicate volume of such works which they will be glad to send to Philip Mills Jones, chairman of the library com mittee, Bohemian Club, San Francisco. Think of that club without a volume of even Brei

BOHEMIAN. NEW YORK, May 12.

Prediction of a Careful Reader. TO THE SDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The conspiracy of the money power backed by THE SUN to orce Senator Balley of Texas Standard Oil fame on the ticket with Colonel Bryan will fail. O, W. BOURER.

From the New York Evening Post.
The Venue de Medici in all her armiess pathesi

Jim'my!

THE SOLDIER'S FIELD EQUIP-

The problem of the soldier's field equipment one that is continually before the military authorities. On the one hand every effort is made to lighten his pack in order that he may be able to march and fight better: on the other hand the improvements in material and the changes in conditions of warfare constantly demand additions to his pack intrenching tools, range finders, cooking utensils, tools for removing obstructions (wire entanglements, &c.), and others too

The weight of the arms, ammunition and

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of the different armies	of	the 1	world	198
follows:				
				Pound
Germany				. 60.
France.				. 57
France (Alpine troops)				70.
Italy				. 64.
Italy (Alpine troops)				
Japan (summer)				62.
Austria-Hungary				58.
Poussla				64.
Switzerland (old pack)				. 66.
Switzerland (experimental p	ack.	1907).	CARRIE	. 56
The French infantrym				
the lightest pack and	the	Frei	ich	Alpii
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sseur the heaviest. The average pack weighs 62.41 pounds. The United States soldier marches very light, but then he has no prescribed intrenching tools or individual cooking implements

other than his mess kit; to carry, so that

t is not possible to compare his equipment

directly with that of the European soldier.

It is a remarkable fact that although our soldiers in the civil war taught the world the art of intrenching on the field, ours is to-day the only important army not provided with a definite portable intrenching tool for the men to carry in their packs. The lessons of 1861-65 Austria had not learned in 1866. nor France in 1870-71. But in 1877-78 Turkey had learned the lessons, and Russia paid the penalty of her neglect. At the beginning of the South African war England again paid the penalty of neglecting field .ntrenchment, whereas the Boers made full use of it The recent campaign in Manchuria has again called attention to its great importance in battle, and the military world is once more resclessly striving to perfect the in-

fantry equipment in that respect. In the European armies the intrenching tools carried into the field are definitely prescribed in regulations. Some of these are carried by the men in their packs, others on special wagons accompanying the troops. For example, the soldiers of a battalion of

infantry in Germany carry the following: 400 short handled spades, 40 pickaxes and 20 axes and hatchets. The engineers and other special arms carry a greater supply, including also saws, wire cutters, &c., which are also carried by the cavalry. Recently the folding saw carried by the cavalry in Germany has been improved so that its two wooden packing sticks can be used as handles for the three cornered file and the round awl. The question of reducing the weight of the

pack (exclusive of arms and ammunition) has occupied the military world for a long time but now it is proposed to reduce the number of rounds of ammunition carried by the soldier because it is believed that ninety rounds a man (instead of 120 or 150r will be quite sufficient for all ordinary cases. Of course this is only a proposed change; it will probably meet with little favor, but it is a matter worth considering. Dr. Hogyes, a Hungarian army surgeon

proposed inlaid soles or socks of asbestos for the soldiers, and they have been adopted for the Hungarian army. The idea is that the marching capacity of the soldier is less endangered by his getting tired than by the sensitiveness of the skin of the feet in com ng in contact with the leather of the shoe.

A new weapon has recently been invented which promises to be of great use for arming the cavalry, namely, a sabre pistol. This invention is due to Herr August Kirchnen, Jr. Rheydt, Rheinland, Germany, and consists of a self-loading Browning pistol introduced in the grip of the sabre. held vertically, edge to the left, to put the pistol in place the barrel of the pistol is passed borizontally from the right between the two shells of the grip, near its top, the butt of the pistol lying vertically between the two shells of which the grip is composed. At a "carry, therefore, the pistol would point in the di rection of the eremy. The magazine, holding nine rounds, is introduced into the pistol from the bottom of the sabre grip. pistol is removed from the hilt of the sabre by first pulling out the magazine, then lifting entirely a waste of time and energy, but it a spring, taking out the pistol and replacing the magazine in it. This requires only a few seconds. The pistol can be used either in the sabre or separately.

Neither France nor Germany has definitely decided on the exact color of a field uniform. At least such is the official statement. officially it appears to be known that Germany at least has concluded her experiments, adopted her field color and is now having the clothing storehouses filled with the new uniform clothing. The color reported to have been adopted is a gray-green, slightly shading into brown, as best adapted for the landscape conditions of central Europe. The official announcement of the adoption of the new field uniform will probably soon follow

By a recent order the German infantry pack is to be reduced in weight as follows: by carrying the third day's rations some other way, so that the soldier carries only two; by reducing the weight of the knapsack, overcoat and cleaning material and carrying a part of it some other way; by leaving off eighty tents from the present supply for each company on a war footing; by carrying a part of the intrenching tools or field telephones on the ammunition wagons; by leaving off part of the load of the pack wagon and utilizing the space to lighten the load carried by the men. Portable field kitchens are to be definitely introduced, and the third day's rations are to be carried on them.

The company pack wagons are to be light ened by leaving out the greater part of the printed regulations prescribed and the reserve articles. By this means room is made for 100 overcoats or 100 tents, or 20 packed knapsacks, or 115 spades, pickaxes and axes, or 9,600 rounds of ammunition, which can be taken from the weaker among the men.

The Exile of the American Desert

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -- Sir Please inform me what particular brand of sirableness has Col. Stewart of the United States army exhibited which has caused the great Square Dealer to dribble with offended majesty? I want to know as the under dog always has my sympathy? NEW YORK, May 12. ARTHUR L. JONES

O listen to the budlets on the trees. And the little leasets filrting with the breeze; Hear the merry mountain rill. How its laughing waters trill As they mount the verdant hill On their knees!

A Song of Moving Time.

See the robin speed along the grassy plot Pulling forth the squirming angle from his cot; Mear the thrush down by the pond Halse his voice in measures (ond Pelleas and Mellsande, See the chapple with his pumps and scarlet socks

As he takes his Sunday walk of seven blocks.

Hear the huckster out of doors.

With what energy he roars Of his luscious berried stores "live a box!" Of the roses that are coming there's a scent; All the atmosphere with odors sweet is blent

As the buds begin to burst; And we read how Easyhurs Hath fine cottages athirst To be rent. When your knees begin to quiver and your spine Isath a slimpsey limpsey feeling like to twine;

When the shad puts forth its roe. With their music to and fro When we notice things are happening like that, And we realize the season we are at.

Then the ads we 'gin to scan Of the anxious landlord man In the hopes of finding an-Other fint. BLARBNET GRAY,

UNITARIAN INFLUENCE.

Some of the Most Useful Workers Have Belonged to the Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: 1 have been much interested in the discussion in your columns in regard to the adequacy of initarianism as a religion. That is some thing that every one must decide for himself out it is interesting to take note of some of those who have found it adequate and who believe that religion is a life and not rite and creeds. One of your correspondents insists that he can determine matters of fact, such as whether Jesus is God, from his own inner consciousness. Unitarians are ready as I understand their position, to accept an fact which can be established by competent and sufficient evidence, and no other. Religious inner consciousness pays no attention to facts or evidence.

Another of your correspondents intimated that the unorthodox had never done and were not now doing any good in the world. Let me state a few facts in reply. Orthodoxy means in the general understanding of the word acceptance of the principal dogmas of the Church; the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Atonement. No one of the men or women whom I shall mention believed in any of these. The five women who have reached the highest intellectual plane. Mary Somerville, Harriet Martineau, Frances Power Cobbe, George Eliot and Mrs. Humphry Ward, were or are all "unbelievers." Misse Cobbe was a leader in many philanthropic works. The four who have done the most good in the world of the sort your correspondents refer to are probably Floresce Nightingule, Mary Carpenter, Dorothea Pix and Clara Barton, all "unbelievers." To these may be added Mary Livermore, Catherthat the unorthodox had never done and Nightingale, Mary Carpenter, Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton, all "unbelievers." To these may be added Mary Livermore, Cather-ine Sedgwick, Helen Hunt Jackson, Julia Ward Howe, Louisa Schuyler, Margaret Fuller, Lydia Maria Child, Maria Mitchell, Louisa M. Alcott, Celia Thaxter, Mrs. Gaskell, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the authoresses of the hymns "Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," all Unitarians.

Unitarians.
Cotting now to the men in this country best known for philanthropy, Stephen Girard Samuel G. Howe, Joseph Tuckerman, Peter Cooper, Samuel J. May, Henry Bergh, Abbott Lawrence, Enoch Pratt, John Smithson, Gerrit Smith, A. A. Low, William H. Baidwin, Captain Goddard and Andrew Carnegie, all were Unitarians or unorthodox. The entire anti-slavery movement up to the time of the war was conducted by the unorthodox, the Church Irowning on it and insisting that Church frowning on it and insisting that slavery was a divine institution. The temslavery was a divine institution. The temperance movement for a long time had to make its way unaided by the Church. The first attempt to relieve women from their legal disabilities was inaugurated by a Judge of the Marine Court whose name for the moment escans me and who was called an atheist. Most of the greatest men in our early history, Jefferson, Adams, Monroe, Franklin, Madison, chief Justice Marshait and Morris, were unorthodox, and Morris, who was considered the closest friend of Washington, told Jefferson, as recorded by Jefferson, that Washington was in belief a deist. The great liberators Mazzini and Kossuth were outside the pale, as was also

Kossuth were outside the pale, as was also Abraham Lincoln. nitarianism appears to me to have accom Interianism appears to me to have accom-pished a great work in softening orthodox beliefs. The great trouble with the churches to-day in my humble judgment is that they go on repeating in the creeds a great deal which they no longer really believe, which leads to insincerity, and in religion the first thing should be sincerity. UNORTHODOX. WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY II. Washington, D. C., May 11.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest. The French Chamber has voted a credit f \$7.000 for the expenses of transporting Zola's body to the Pautheon in June

M. Briand, Minister of Justice in France has introduced a bill to extend the nowers of juries so that besides returning verdicts they may in case of condemnation express their opinion as to the amount and kind of punishment to be inflicted.

The Kaiser has not had the temerity to expel Helne's statue altogether from the grounds of his villa at Corfu. He has merely banished it to an obscure corner.

The committee responsible for the pageant Vienna in honor of the Emperor's sixtieth nniversary has insured itself for 100,000 growns with an English company, so that f the Emperor dies before June i it will be ndemnified for its outlay. The Emperor will be 78 on the 18th of next August

Dickens's Debt to Newspaper

From Chambers's Journal. Charles Dickens and Anthony Trollope were the wo other novelists of the time who represented iterature at Delane's dinners. There was a special propriety in each of these being a guest. It was a correspondence in the Times about an absence dergyman that suggested to Trollope the earliest of his fictions, "The Warden," which first made him famous. In 1838 the Times had published some paragraphs about the cheap Yorkshire schools one especially, near Barnard Castle, was mentioned In those newspaper passages Dickens first saw the germs of "Nicholas Nickleby"; the particular estab ishment to which attention was specially drawn appeared in the book as "Dotheboys Hall." years later Robert Lowe was enrolled as one of Delane's men. His earliest articles were on the subject of Chancery reform. By none were these leaders pondered more carefully than by Dickens. The articles were yet appearing in the Times when Dickens issued the numbers of "Bleak House" dealing with the case of Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce.

Dr. Johnson's Piety.

From the Sunday at Homei Some time ago I had occasion to edit a new edion of Dr. Johnson's little book, "Prayers and Meditations." Three things struck me foreibly. The first was the fact that scarcely any one I met ven of my literary friends, knew that there was such a book, and yet it was published before Bos well's "Life," and is mentioned several times by him. The second was the fact that no new edition of the book had been issued from the press for forty years: and the third thing was the fact that in all the references to Johnson and his opinions, his habits and his sayings, in present day newspapers and books, I could recall no instance in which emphasis was laid on his reffgious habit and character.

And yet the religious opinions of Johnson, both loctrinal and ethical, exercised a controlling interest over his character and writings, and the fervor and sincerity of his personal piety were apparent to all who intimately knew him in life.

The Salcey Oak. From the Westminster Gazette.

Salcey Forest, near Northampton, where some one old oak trees have been damaged by fire, is the least known of all the royal forests, though it formerly extended across the border into Buckinghamshire and there are still nearly two thousand acfes in charge of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. It was settled in 1665, "without the timber," by Charles 11. upon Queen Catherine as part of her jointure. The great glory of this forest has been the Salcey Oak, now a mere picturesque sylvan ruin, which is forty-seven feet in circ erence and fabled to be 1,500 years old. This famous tree was spared, not for sentimental reas in the eighteenth century, when all the finest oaks were felled for the navy by shipwrights from Deptford Dockyard, who "converted" the wood on the spot to save the excessive cost of transport

Cleveland's Aluminum Street Car Tickets.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer "The greatest trouble with this job now," lamented a Cedar avenue conductor, "is the jokers that a man taking fares has to contend with. Every other passenger has some cute name for those three cent tickets.

'Gimme a handful of them washers,' one mar will say as he slips half a dollar to me. A lot of them call it 'chink money' just because it has holes in it, and so it goes. "Tin three cent pieces," 'perforated slugs,' 'clay disks with the holes in 'em'-all those names and a lot more we have to put up with The passenger who doesn't have some new name for these tickets looks ashamed of himself.

Village Income From Golf. From the London Standard.

The village of Brancaster has made an arrangement with the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club under which it receives 4 per cent. on the club's gross income, with a guarantee of not less than £50 in any year, for the use of the land which has been converted into links. Each year the money is dis tributed equally among householders of not icea than twelve months' residence. This year's distribution has just been made, and the club paid over £63 16s., an increase of £8 12s, upon last year's contribution. The amount sufficed to give every householder in Brancaster 5s. and leave-a balance

Haddock Superstition.

From the London Globe. The haddock has a superstition attached to the On each side on the shoulders, near the gills, it has a dark spot, fabled to be the impression made by the finger and thumb of St. Peter when he took up and found the penny in its mouth to pay tribute to Cesar with.

His Tee. Knicker-What is the President's slogan! Bocker-Give us arrest.